

Veteran of the Week 4 (August 22-28, 2021)

925437 Private William Cooney of the 5th Battalion (Saskatchewan Regiment)

Canadian Expeditionary Force

First World War (WW1)



Private William Cooney of Glen Ewen, Saskatchewan was born on the 18th of September 1895 to James Patrick Cooney and Caroline “Carrie” Spencer Cooney in Tubmurray, Bruce County, Ontario. He was a farmer by trade. Private Cooney enlisted in the Canadian Army on February 28th 1916 in Estevan, Saskatchewan at the age of 20. He enlisted with the 152nd Overseas Battalion. Private Cooney sailed to England aboard the S.S. Missanabie on the 3rd of October 1916 and arrived in Liverpool, England on the 13th of October that year. On October 21st 1916 he was transferred to the 32nd Battalion and then later to the 5th Battalion (Saskatchewan Regiment) on the 12th of November 1916. He was wounded in action on the 9th of April 1917 at the Battle of Vimy Ridge and then subsequently admitted to Queen Mary Military Hospital (located at Whalley, Lancashire) on the 13th of April 1917 with a gunshot wound to his right arm and pneumonia. He was discharged from Queen Mary Military Hospital on the 25th of May 1917. Having spent a total of 43 days in the hospital.

He was again hospitalized on the 30th of July 1917 (No.7 General Hospital, St. Omer) with the chicken pox. He was discharged on the 11th of August 1917. 925437 Private William Cooney was killed in action in the field on the 10th of November 1917 by an enemy artillery shell which landed near where he and some of the others of his company had dug in during the Battle of Passchendaele. He was 22 years old. He has no known grave and is commemorated on the Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial in Ypres (now called Leper) West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. He is listed on panel 18-26-28.

In addition to being commemorated on the Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Private Cooney is commemorated in the R.M. of Enniskillen (No.3) and is on an Honor Roll located in Oxbow, Saskatchewan. He was posthumously awarded the British War Medal; the Victory Medal and his mother was awarded the Silver Cross (Memorial Cross). As Private Cooney was unmarried at the time of his death and being predeceased by his father James, he is survived by his mother Carrie. This week we honour the service and sacrifice of Private William Cooney of Glen Ewing, Saskatchewan. Lest we Forget.

